CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTION.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar:—

Sir,

I rise, on this occasion, to perform the most pleasant duty of moving the following resolution :—

"This Council respectfully tenders its humble congratulations to His Highness the Maharaja, Sree Rama Varmah, on his assuming the Rulership of this ancient State, and desires to express its prayerful hope that His Highness will live long, and that, under his pious and benevolent rule, the prosperity of the State and the happiness of its people will progress continuously."

Your humble servant feels gratified that this unique opportunity to exercise the precious privilege of moving this Resolution has been vouchsafed to him. Our Council is the only legally-organised body in the State, representative of all classes, castes and creeds of His Highness' loyal subjects, and it is only in the fitness of things that we should respectfully tender to His Highness our humble congratulations and felicitations, on his accession to the Rulership of this most ancient and historic State in India. But, permit me, Sir, to say that it is we who deserve to be congratulated on our good fortune, at this critical stage in the history of our country, in having secured as our Ruler, a remarkable personage who has devoted his long life in the service of God. Once more I respectfully say that it is a special good fortune vouchsafed to us by the All-Merciful Providence, that, at a time like this when momentous changes are impending in the constitution of India and Indian States we have in His Highness, a Ruler, who is scrupulously constitutional in his methods of rule and who has set before himself noble and lofty ideals for the discharge of his responsibility. His qualities cannot be described more aptly than in the following verses from Valmeeki Ramayana which His Highness reveres:—

ധർമ്മജ്ഞഃ സത്യസന്ധശ്ച പ്രജാനാം ച ഹിതേരതഃ

സത്യധർമ്മ പരശ്രീമാൻ സംഗ്രഹാനുഗ്രഹൗ രതഃ!

"A lover of morality and Justice ; one who has taken a vow to be true; one who always feels and finds pleasure in carrying out the wishes of his subjects, and in rewarding those who are good and true".

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

This corresponds to the Biblical passage:—
"He that ruleth over man must be just,
Ruling in the fear of God".

His principle of conduct, and the only principle, is that prescribed by the Lord in the following words of the Holy Bhagavat Geetha which also His Highness reveres like Ramayana:—

യേ തു സർവ്വാണി കർമ്മാണി മയി സന്ന്യസ്യ മൽപരാഃ
അനന്യേനൈവ യോഗേന മാം ധ്യായന്ത ഉപാസതേ

"Worship me, Surrender all actions to me, Regard me as Supreme, Meditate on me with exclusive devotion."

Or, to again quote from the Holy Bible:—
"Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind and love thy neighbour as thyself".

Or, "therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God".

His Highness' faith in God is adamantine. His service of God is service of truth—service of love to all. It will be no exaggeration if I say that His Highness is God saturated—Truth saturated—and Love saturated.

In short, there is nothing that His Highness does that he does not consider as an act of worship of GOD. It will be interesting for you to hear that it was at the Trippunittura Temple in front of His family deity "POORNATHRYAESWARAN" that he set his SIGN MANUAL to the first Theetturam issued after he became the Ruler. He did so, humbly prostrating before GOD and dedicating all his acts and their fruits to GOD. Can a more noble and purer ideal be conceived to guide him in discharging his responsible duties? We all know that it rained very heavily for days together before the Installation of His Highness and we feared that the bad weather might mar the splendour eagerly looked forward of the various functions. But His Highness said that the functions were not intended for any vain display of pomp and power and that their real object being to seek the blessings of GOD and Divine Light to guide him in the discharge of his duties, he hoped and prayed that GOD would do what He considered best. What was the result? The weather cleared, and the functions went off splendidly without any hitch to the great satisfaction of His Highness' loyal subjects.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Those of us who had the occasion to study the life of Gladstone, so masterly written by Lord Morley, know that that great statesman considered every work of his, whether political or social, as worship of GOD. The greatness achieved by Gladstone is due more to this noble trait of his honesty of purpose and his intense faith in God's goodness than to his intellectual talents.

In His Highness' reply to the public address presented to him on the auspicious occasion of his Installation, His Highness has assured us "that the prosperity of My State and the welfare of My people, will hereafter be the subjects, to which I shall devote alike my thoughts and my energies".

Can words express more clearly the sincerity of his intentions? In that reply, His Highness has also expressed his confidence, "That with the support of the Paramount Power and the loyal co-operation of my officers and subjects, the important problems will so be solved as to enhance the prestige of My State and the happiness of My people".

I trust, Sir, I can take the liberty to assure His Highness on behalf of all of us in this House, including the Hon'ble non-official Members, on the other side, and I do hope that this assurance on behalf of them will be endorsed more eloquently by my Hon'ble colleague, the Deputy President, that we are determined to co-operate to the best of our ability with His Highness the Maharaja in the discharge of his responsible duties. So far as we, the official members and the services represented by us are concerned, need I say that under your enthusiastic and spirited lead and guidance, we will do our best to deserve our dear Sovereign's confidence in us. Will you kindly convey to His Highness this assurance of ours on our behalf in your capacity as our President? - Will you also convey to His Highness our most grateful thanks for the message of welcome and good-will that he so graciously sent to us yesterday? We appreciate that message very much. Has not His Highness already shown his appreciation of this Council's usefulness by commanding the broadening of the franchise for our elections and by allowing all members to put supplementary questions? This augurs well for the future, and we can with confidence hope for many more concessions of this kind. Everything good in this world comes in good time.

അഭൂപ്യാ സർവ്വഭൂതാനാം മൈത്രീകരുണ ഏവ ച "Hate none and be friendly and kind to all beings." This promises to be the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

key-note of His Highness' rule. Let us therefore, in the meanwhile, imbibe this ruling spirit of His Highness' life. Let not one community hate another and let all communities move and work in a spirit of co-operation for the common good of all.

One thing more and I have done. In the Resolution that I have the privilege to move for the unanimous adoption of this House, a prayerful hope is expressed that His Highness will live long. Will you, Sir, when you put the Resolution before this House, request all the Members and also the visitors seated in both the galleries, to stand up for a minute in solemn silence and offer their prayer to *God* to bless His Highness the Maha-Raja Sree Rama Varmha with long life and prosperity?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Mr. President, Sir,

I rise to second the resolution, and I consider that it is as much of an honour as a privilege to do so. For, the resolution is one by which the representatives of the people desire to convey their loyal good wishes and humble but heartfelt congratulations to His Highness the Maharaja on his being installed as the Ruler of this State. And I am thankful that this duty of honour has been assigned to me.

In commending the resolution for the unanimous acceptance of the House, it is hardly necessary for me to point out that, far from being a mere formality, the resolution truly reflects the mind of this House. The people of Cochin, whom we, the elected Members of the Council, have the honour to represent, have always been loyal and devoted to their Rulers, and solicitous of the welfare of the Ruling Family. There is no record, either ancient or modern, of any serious hitch between our Rulers and the ruled, of oppressive measures adopted by the former and resented by the latter. But all authentic accounts go to prove that the Rajas of this State, which was once the biggest and the most powerful kingdom on this coast, were devout though enlightened followers of the highest principles of Dharma, who sacrificed "*self*" on the high altar of duty and dedicated their life-work to the cause of their subjects' prosperity and contentment, so much so that they have left behind them traditions, of the highest honour and glory to their successors. Certainly His Highness is to be congratulated on his elevation to a position enshrined in the glory of these hallowed traditions. And it is our loyal duty to assure His Highness that our humble good wishes and heartfelt felicitations are ever with him.

The responsibilities of His Highness' exalted position, onerous as they are even in normal times, have been rendered

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

more than ordinarily heavy and taxing in as much as we are passing through critical times of social, economic and political upheaval almost everywhere. But if Cochin too, like every other country, has to face difficulties and solve problems vitally affecting its interests, there is the consolation that we can confidently rely on His Highness to do the right thing at the right moment. For here, fortunately there is no clash of interests between the Ruler and the ruled. And, in the light of our past experience, we have every reason to hope that socially, economically and politically our State is bound to record a large and further measure of rapid and substantial progress under the new regime.

Therefore it is that I venture to state that the measures that have hitherto been adopted for the amelioration of the condition of our socially depressed and starving brothers cannot but be strengthened and rendered more effective under the paternal and loving guidance of our benign Ruler. And, therefore, it is that I venture to hope that the schemes of public utility, that have already been started with a view to develop, to the fullest extent possible, the material resources of the State and thus promote its economic prosperity are soon bound to bear fruits, particularly because they are receiving the personal care and attention of His Highness' trusted and faithful Minister.

So far as political reforms are concerned, we have already had a fore-taste of the developments we may expect in the extension of franchise and the grant of additional privileges to this House, graciously vouchsafed to us on the occasion of His Highness' Installation. Cochin is the most literate of all the States and Provinces in India. The proportion of those who have received higher education is greater in our State than anywhere else in the Indian Empire. Our Rulers have always been constitutional in their outlook. There is, therefore, no exaggeration or self-glorification in our advancing the claim that, if any people in the Indian Empire deserve to have a real voice in the management of their own affairs, it is the people of Cochin and that, if any Ruler of an Indian State is likely to take his subjects into full partnership out of his own free will and sense of responsibility it is the Ruler of this ancient and historic State. Mr. President, I am but voicing not merely the hope but the conviction of this Council. I am but expressing the sincere belief of the people at large whom we have the honour to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

represent, when I state that His Highness the Maharaja, advised by his constitutional Diwan, will signalise his rule by introducing a thoroughly constitutional form of Government in Cochin, that the State will soon pass the limits of the present all-round gloon and depression and enter on a new era of further progress, enhanced prosperity, growing happiness and peaceful contentment, and that our beloved State will rank in the very forefront of the best governed, most progressive and model States of the Indian Empire. (*Hear, hear*).

In inviting the House to accept the resolution unanimously, I ask every Member, both official and non-official, to offer his fervent prayer in unison with me that the benign Providence may vouchsafe to His Highness all health and happiness and grant him strength to discharge his sacred duties so that even the fondest expectations of His Highness' subjects may be realised in full measure during his regime.

May തൃപ്പുണിത്തുറയപ്പൻ (Tiippunittura Appan) bless His Highness!!

LONG LIVE HIS HIGHNESS OUR MAHARAJA.

President.—After passing the resolution, I request the Hon'ble Members to keep standing for a minute in silence.

The resolution was unanimously passed, the whole House standing.

All the Members remained standing in silence for a minute in prayerful attitude.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—I request the President that the resolution may be communicated to His Highness and the Proceedings published in the Gazette.

President.—Yes.

The House was then adjourned till 3 p. m.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly